PROPERTY- 1939

ALABAMA

Report Building Boom In Tuskegee Institute Area

Call Kansas City Mo.

7-14-39

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—According to a recent press release, business is booming in the commercial and residence sections of Tuskegee institute.

Outstanding among recent developments has been the razing of a historical frame building adjoining the Chambliss hotel building just outside the old Lincoln gates and known to many generations of Tuskegee students as "Cooper's store."

Now occupying this spot is a new and modern building which houses an up-to-date grocery which is owned and operated by George W. Carter, a former Tuskegee graduate and now an enterprising business man in that community.

Carter's wife and two brothers, who assist him in his business, are also Tuskegee graduates as are other clerks and grill attendants in the Carter establishment.

Two other places just off the Tuskegee campus are fast nearing completion. The Tuskegee Building and Loan association is putting up a two-story office building in the block below the Chambliss building on the site of the late William Gregory house which was moved back a hundred yards or more a few years ago and is now occupied by Rev. C. H. Kelly.

The Building and Loan building will be of brick veneer and will cost between five and six thousand dollars. Negro workmen are doing the job.

Loan Company 40 Years Old

The Tuskegee Building and Loan association was organized over 40 years ago. Until failing health caused him to resign, Warren Logan, Tuskegee institute's first treasurer, now retired, was secretary-treasurer of the concern. At a recent meeting Mr. William Maynard, cashier Tuskegee Institute Savings Bank, was elected secretary of the Building and Loan and Mr. Logan, vice president. Other officers are: C. H. Gibson, president; J. H. Palmer, treasurer; Robert Gover and Jesse Whitfield, directors.

A. A. Floyd of the school of agriculture faculty is erecting a two-story building of brick veneer adjacent to Gamlin's store. The Floyd building, report has it, will have a beauty parlor upstairs and a ladies' dress shop on the first floor. The construction work has been in charge of La Verne Cheatham and has been used as a practice project by the students in vocational agriculture.

Within the past 24 months more than a dozen private homes of brick veneer or asbestos shingles have been completed for members of the institute staff or of the Veterans hospital personnel.

Among those who have recently moved into new homes are: Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sorrel, Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Lee, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Settlers, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Crutcher, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Brown, Mr. and Lucian Green.

All of this construction has given employment to scores of Negro workmen.

Within a few weeks ground will be broken for a new hospital unit to be built adjacent to the John A. Andrew hospital from the appropriation of $131,369 made by the Infantile Paralysis Foundation for the treatment of Negro sufferers of infantile paralysis.

This construction project will be a source of employment for scores of men in the community and for advanced students in commercial industry.

The Agricultural Extension building which is going up on the site where Dr. George W. Carver for many years had his experimental plots of cotton and alfalfa — between the Chambliss Children's house and the agricultural buildings became the center of interest when its cornerstone was laid with elaborate ceremonies on June 19. This building, the materialization of a dream of T. M. Campbell, pioneer extension agent is being erected from WPA funds and is giving employment to Negro workmen and Tuskegee students.

Off campus building projects in which Tuskegee institute is playing a significant part are the low cost rural houses and recreation buildings that are being put up as a result of the activity of the agricultural extension agents in Alabama.

The first of these low cost rural homes, a five room cottage, was completed in Elmore county a few weeks ago at a total cost of $690 including screens and a curbed well. The owners are Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Thurman.

These low cost rural homes are being built under the supervision of, and from the plans drawn by Dola F. Miller, head of the Tuskegee institute brick masonry division. Mr. Miller has been loaned by Tuskegee institute for half time to help with the building program of the extension agents under the direction of T. M. Campbell.

In all of the rural building projects Tuskegee students in masonry, carpentry or landscaping are given some opportunity for apprentice work under Mr. Miller's supervision.

OTHER BEQUESTS TOTALING $8,436 REVEALED BY WILL

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 7—The bulk of the estate of John R. Hawkins, financial secretary of the A. M. E. Church, who died on August 23, will go to his daughter, Mrs. Esther Hawkins Wilson, of Boston, Mass.

His will, dated May 16, 1936, was filed for probate in the office of the Register of Wills last Monday. It and a codicil, dated March 23, last, are in his own handwriting.

To his secretary and foster daughter, Mrs. Pocahontas West, wife of Dr. Reuben M. West, a dentist, Mr. Hawkins bequeathed $1,000 in his will. In the codicil he gave her property at 21 L street, northwest, which is assessed at $5,736.

To Miss Doris Elaine West, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. West, he bequeathed $200.

Other bequests were as follows:

To his sisters, Mrs. Pattie E. Collins, of Warrenton, N. C., and Mrs. Elinor B. Carter, of Atlantic City, $100 each.

To his brothers, Richard C. Hawkins, of Philadelphia, and Walter E. Hawkins, of Brooklyn, $50 each.

To his nephews, Richard S. Hawkins, John J. Hawkins, Ossian Hawkins, and his nieces, Daisy Hawkins, Eloise Hawkins and Elizabeth Hawkins, children of his brother, Richard C. Hawkins, $50 each.

To his nieces, Hester Hawkins, Fannie Hawkins, Waltrine Hawkins, Lucille Hawkins, and his nephew, Walter E. Hawkins, Jr., children of his brother, Walter E. Hawkins, $50 each.

To his nieces, Della Mae Hawkins and Lillian Hawkins, daughters of his deceased brother, James Hawkins, $50 each.

To his nieces, Christine Hawkins, Gwendolyn Hawkins, Imogene Hawkins, and his nephew, P. L. Hawkins, Jr., children of his brother, Dr. P. L. Hawkins, $50 each.

To Mrs. Mary Burns, his cook, $100, and Alfred E. Fortune, chauffeur, $100.

To Kittrell College, $100, and the John R. Hawkins High School, Warrenton, N.C., $100.

The remainder of the estate goes to his daughter, whom he named with Dr. West as executors of his will.

Retired Porter Leaves Daughter $57,000

WASHINGTON

An estate of $57,000, unencumbered by debts, including more than $15,000 in cash was left by John I. Foreman, a former Pullman porter, it was revealed in the District court, Monday.

The sole heir to the estate which also contains $18,000 in real estate and $19,000 in real estates notes, is a daughter, Mrs. Bernice Lamond, of the 900 block of S Street, Northwest.

For many years, Mr. Foreman was a porter on first-line Pennsylvania Railway trains out of Washington. He retired about a year prior to his death last month.

Application for probate of the will was made by the law firm of Cobb. Howard and Haves.

Learn to Save

THOSE who consider these times of depression and of wars as appropriate to analyze the trend of human affairs and find difficult the question of saving, or thrift, would do well to model after the late John I. Foreman, a Washington, D. C. Pullman porter.

Mr. Foreman, who recently died, left an estate of $57,000. The principal holdings include: $15,193 in cash; $18,000 in real estate, $17,860 in real estate notes, and $6,550 in insurance benefits. He left no debts.

Of course, there's the element of his business acumen to be considered, but it's not the principal point.

The main object lesson is that Mr. Foreman undoubtedly did not live beyond his means in an attempt to keep up with the Joneses and saved, with a degree of regularity, some of his earnings.

The pay of a Pullman porter at its best is not to be considered in the higher brackets and this makes the Washington man's accomplishments all the more remarkable.

We dare say that many at present are making three or four more times yearly than did this porter, but how many will equal his achievement? The cause of this conjecture is the fact that we fear too few have not learned the art of thrift.

Just how much we can save is uncertain, as we appear to be in a period of transition in which the outcome is uncertain. Nevertheless, only a penny is needed to begin the habit. Regardless of the many uncertainties, Mr. Foreman has brought a novel and refreshing emphasis upon the value of saving some money.

Everywhere, unthoughtful people are spending money as fast as they make it. All who can regularly lay aside a few dollars will soon find it a permanent benefit as well as making life intensely more secure.

Once Reputed To Be Worth A Million

Widow Had Renounced Share In Will

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Justice James M. Proctor in the United States District Court last week dismissed the suit of Mrs. Lavinia G. Holmes, 811 Twenty-first Street northwest, for assignment of dower in the estate of her late husband, Ottoway Holmes, once reputed to be a millionaire.

In a memorandum opinion, Wednesday, Justice Proctor took the view that Mrs. Holmes, in effect, was merely seeking a compromise with Mrs. Daisy Ellsworth and Mrs. Gladys Lloyd, of 1731 S Street northwest, daughter and granddaughter of Mr. Holmes, to whom he left his estate.

NO JURISDICTION

"This court has no jurisdiction in such a matter," he ruled. "Obviously her offer to compromise the alleged claim does not state a case for relief."

Mr. Holmes died on September 24, 1934. His estate was valued at $137,000. Among the property he left was the premises at 811 Twenty-first Street northwest, in which he and his wodow were married on August 13, 1914.

When the will of Mr. Holmes was filed for probate, his widower renounced what the will gave her and elected to take her dower interest.

WILL PROVISIONS

In his will Mr. Holmes left the

property at the Twenty-first Street address to his granddaughter. It is assessed at $9,925 but has a mortgage of $4,000 on it.

Mrs. Holmes offered to accept this property with the household furnishings in it, free and clear of all incumbrances, in satisfaction of her dower rights.

Attorney Elwood G. Hubert filed a motion to dismiss the complaint in behalf of Mrs. Ellsworth and Mrs. Lloyd, which Justice Proctor granted. In his motion, Mr. Hubert stated that his clients would never agree to the proposed compromise.

The matter of assignment of dower will be determined by the Probate Court where the will is being administered.

Mobile, Ala. Press
May 12, 1939

FLORIDA STUDIES TAX MORATORIUM

Solons May Reward Property Owners Who Have Paid Promptly for 5 Years

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., May 12.—(AP)—Two Florida Senate committees gave consideration today to a proposed two-year tax moratorium as a reward to tax payers who have paid their state and county real estate levies promptly during the past five years.

Senator Hodges of Tallahassee, introducer of the bill, had it referred jointly to the finance and taxation committee headed by Senator Holland of Bartow and the judiciary B committee of which Senator Whitaker of Tampa is chairman.

Recent Legislatures, Hodges said, have favored delinquent tax payers to the extent that a "practically unbearable" burden was thrown on those who paid their levies promptly.

Hodges' exemption would extend to lands on which there had been no tax adjustments save the usual discount for early payment.

Attacks against the moratorium would be discouraged by the requirement of posting a $50,000 bond to cover attorney fees for anybody who wished to intervene on behalf of the proposal.

The Senate defeated, 31 to 4, a House-approved measure providing for state acceptance of a 200-acre tract near St. Augustine with a view to establishing a negro industrial school.

Senator Coulter of Bronson introduced a bill to bar married women from state, county or city jobs if their husbands make more than $1,500 a year. An additional allowance of $250 would be made for each dependent child. The proposal would not apply to women elected to office or to those not living with their husbands.

The Senate adopted and sent to the House a resolution inviting former Gov. Eugene Talmadge of Georgia to address a joint session next Wednesday.

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
April 4, 1939

Letters To The Editor

TAXATION AND THE ABILITY TO PAY

Editor, The Advertiser:

I am impressed with your article in your issue of the 30th, instant, captioned, "Per Capital Taxes in Alabama," in which you show a comparative per capita tax in Alabama of $14.61, with that of California of $38.63, and Delaware of $39.36. Just why in the first paragraph of your article you state "this is anything but an editorial urging an increase in taxes: it is just a little liniment on a sore subject," makes one wonder a bit and the selection of California and Delaware as comparative States for Alabama certainly places our own beloved State at an unfair disadvantage. I hardly believe that anyone can deny that ability to pay taxes should in great part govern taxation. A comprison of income taxes paid by the three States for 1937 shows as follows: Alabama, by corporations $3,379,224; California, $52,383,459, and Delaware, $32,631,786. Alabama, by individuals, $3,166,298; California, $71,686,930, and Delaware, $20,104,585. Alabama has an area of 51,998 square miles, California 158,297 square miles, and Delaware, 2,370 square miles. Alabama has a population of 2,834,000, California 5,639,000, and Delaware, 256,000. Negro population, which proportionately pays very little taxes: Alabama 944,834, California 81,048, and Delaware 32,602. Alabama has 257,396 farms, embracing 17,579,808 acres, the value in 1935 of all crops, livestock and livestock products being $158,311,000 California's crops valuation was $166,000,00, embracing oranges 77 million, hay 35 million, lettuce, 16 million, beans 16 million, prunes 12 million and wheat 10 million. It was one of the original gold producing States with silver second, followed by petroleum and natural gas. Gold output in 1936 was $36,736,000, silver $1,661,000. The motion picture industry and property incident thereto will probably equal in value more than half the property value of Alabama. Relative to size and population Delaware has large manufacturing interests and property values are incidentally high. To attempt to compare Alabama with California and Delaware for tax statistics is not alone misleading but unfair to Alabama and its tax payers, and such comparison has no statistical value. as any comparison must represent equal condition. Taxes and income are relative and a comparison of the per capita income tax of Alabama with California and Delaware indicates very clearly that the tax in Alabama compares very favorably with that of California and Delaware. The sooner we discard discussing property taxes by mills and truly recognize and realize that taxes are not paid in the kind taxed (realty and personal property) but as you state in first paragraph from the pocketbook and in actuality all taxes must be paid from income from property and business and any property taxed must of necessity earn its taxes, otherwise the profitable property will be leached upon by the unprofitable.

Referring to paragraph three of your article I quote: "Last year our tax collector received a total of $42,292,276 from Alabama pocketbooks, which is $14.61 per person," you are absolutely correct in the statement that it came from the pocketbooks and a comparison of the per capita pocketbooks of California and Delaware will not make our beloved State of Alabama show up very bad. If the per capita tax of our people is raised, whether by the misleading equalization scheme or not, in honesty's name let those entrusted with the general welfare of our people use diligent means to first raise the ability per capita to pay the taxes already imposed and decrease the clamor or necessity for additional taxes. We have no use for half the laws and regulations now imposed, much less the imposition of proposed hundreds of new ones. Perhaps our people will some day be able to separate theory from reality and again come to understand that the least governed people are the best citizenship.

MARTIN L. CALHOUN.

Selma, Ala., March 30.

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 7, 1939

MISLEADING STATISTICS

An exchange, turning statistical, not for purposes of propaganda, it avows, undertakes to show that, next to Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia, Alabama pays the lowest per capita taxes of any state. California, this item says, pays $38.63 per person, and Delaware $39.36, while we pay only $14.61 per person.

Such items, if they prove anything, prove the fallacy of statistics. Henry County is about half white, half colored, with the Negro half of the population paying approximately 3 per cent of the ad valorem taxes. That would bring the white per capita tax up to around $25, which would then compare more favorably with California's and Delaware's, where there are relatively few Negro families.

But a better way to look at taxes is not on the per capita but on the earned income basis. It can be shown that Alabama pays in taxes a larger part of its net income than most other states, and that is the real test. The trouble is, somewhat because of the machinations of the federal government, our per capita earnings are much lower than in most other states.—Wiregrass Farmer (Headland).

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
May 4, 1939

The Negro in the North

[Christian Science Monitor]

PRETTY soon, if the migration of Negroes to the North continues, we may have to revise the old song, *Way Down Upon the Swanee River* and sing *Way Up on the Hudson River* or the *Delaware River*, former Governor Alfred E. Smith told a New York luncheon audience the other day.

Negroes in the United States now number between 12,000,000 and 13,000,000, or nearly a tenth of the population. In the last census decade, Mr. Smith explained, the number in the North increased by nearly a million. There are now over two and a half million in the North, some nine million in the South, and less than 200,000 in the West. "As a matter of fact," said Mr. Smith, "the densest Negro population in the world is not in Africa, but in the United States, and it is not 'down South' alone. It's in the great urban centers."

While the Negro population continues greatest in the South, it is clear that problems pertaining to Negroes are no longer sectional, but national.

Perhaps Mr. Smith put his finger on the most vital aspect of the question when he said: "It strikes me that the remarkable thing is not that we have a Negro problem, but that he is so little of a problem and has come so far in only three-quarters of a century out of slavery." The country owes the Negro a fair deal, whether he lives North or South.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
July 31, 1839

Emancipation—and After

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—There are some historical misconceptions that seem particularly popular with contributors on the Negro. One is the nature of the Emancipation Proclamation, which the able Dr. Bragg of St. James Episcopal Church, Baltimore, is constantly setting forth for the benefit not only of his race, but of most of the Caucasians as well; viz., that the Proclamation did not "end slavery," since it specifically exempted all slaves under Federal control, with the idea that if the South surrendered, slavery would be preserved intact. The Proclamation was a war measure, like the British offer of freedom to slaves at the beginning of the Revolution.

There is another popular misconception to the effect that the uplift of the Negro has been achieved only in the past 75 years and that the period of slavery "debased" or "degraded" the race. As a matter of fact, the Negro was uplifted 1,000 years in two or three generations when they were redeemed from conditions of African barbarism that stagger belief, including cannibalism. Of course, "redeemed" is not altogether a proper word. The African Negroes were bought as slaves from their own people when possible, or else brutally seized for no purpose of redemption but for the profit for both white and black traders.

True, the white race that seized the African Negroes had once been in a condition of barbarism, but that was ancient history, and those Negroes who were brought into association with the more advanced race profited wonderfully. Used to their own forms of savage slavery, they were benefited in America, even under the worst of conditions over here.

Our American Negroes are properly proud of what they have done since slavery; and if that progress is built on character, time will effect even greater improvement; and the writer does not agree with the rather harsh verdict of Abraham Lincoln, who observed to a delegation of Negroes visiting the White House that he thought the races had best be separated in different countries, suggesting mass removal for mutual benefit of what Lincoln regarded as the "inferior" race. On the contrary, it seems that the Negro has done much, in and out of slavery, for the land of his adoption. In equal measure, if free deportation to Liberia were offered the Negro, he would not go, despite any and all disabilities under which he may suffer in America—and Negroes are not alone in suffering hardships and "inequalities." The majority of Negroes are endowed with a unique philosophy which enables them to make the best of untoward circumstances. Perhaps it is good common sense that naturally causes them to reject impractical ideas.

PETER PARLEY JR.,

Baltimore, Md.

COLORED TAX DIGEST

The receiver of tax returns has submitted to the County Commissioners the tax digest for the present year. It makes an interesting study and very informing. In five items the colored digest shows a gain, and a loss in three others. These are compared with the digest of last year. It is regretted that there is a loss in both city and county real estate. In the county the loss shows $3,648.00 and the city $15,155.00. The present holdings for the county amount to $513,038.00 and the city $1,825,607.00. In money and accounts the loss is $900.00. Merchandise has a gain of $2,585.00 and $25.00 for horses and cattle. Motive power can readily account for the latter. The largest gains were in automobiles and furniture. The gain for the former shows $36,080.00 and the latter $32,845.00. The return for automobiles for this year show $149,885.00, and for furniture $65,720.00 In the latter the whites return was less than six thousand dollars. The total digest for the year is $2,569,150.00 the gain being $52-147.00. According to the digest our people seem more concerned about automobiles and furniture than real estate. It is well for those who can afford it to have an automobile, and it shows progress to beautify the homes with useful furniture but these should be minor to the owning of a home to be furnished with a garage in which to place an automobile.

Augusta, Ga. Chronicle
October 3, 1939

COUNTY'S NEGRO DIGEST DECLINES

Drop of $157,765 in Taxable Property Values Shown This Year

A drop of $157,765 in the value of property in Richmond county owned by Negroes was registered this year, C. A. Steed, tax receiver for Richmond county, said yesterday in announcing the tax digest for Negro-owned property.

The net digest this year is $1,384,620, a drop of $157,765 from the $1,542,385 in taxable property owned by Negroes last year.

This is the figure on which the tax levy will be made, Mr. Steed said, the homestead and personal property exemption having been deducted.

The gross digest for 1939 was $2,360,575, but from this was deducted the $975,955 exemption allowed. Last year the gross digest was $2,378,835 and the exemption allowed was only $836,450. Thus while property values dropped the amount of exemption allowed was increased.

Mr. Steed predicted that the same will be true in the digest of white property owners. He forecast the value of property will be slightly lower and that there will be an increase in the amount of exemption allowed.

Mr. Steed said the complete digest probably will be finished Wednesday. After this is done both the county commission and the board of education will fix a tax rate and then the tax collectors will begin receiving tax payments.

900-ACRE FARM INHERITED BY NEGRO FAMILY

INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE, Ga., Dec. 14—(ANP)—Negroes have come into possession of an additional tract of land containing 900 acres, in the Log Cabin community. This farm, formerly the Hillman estate, is considered one of the finest farms in middle Georgia. The farm was once the home of the late Camilla Hubert, the mother of the Hubert children who pioneered in establishing Log Cabin Community Center as a demonstration of what Negroes may do for themselves to improve economic and social conditions in the rural South. The mothers of the Huberts and Dixons, all natives and owners of farms in this community, were slaves during their early life on this farm.

This farm, one of the prizes estates of Hancock county, is located on the Sparta and White Plains highway one and one-half miles from the community center. On this farm there are two large streams and several smaller streams of excellent water on which fish ponds were once established. There are 2,000,000 feet of pine timber on the farm. One hundred and fifty acres of bottom land on this farm produce from 50 to 75 bushels of corn per acre without fertilization. There is plenty of pasture land with carpet and bermuda grass already seeded. On this farm is a beautiful home built over 100 years ago. The home house has 12 rooms built out of yellow pine. There are several barns and outhouses and one additional settlement on this farm.

William Heath, who will take charge of this farm on Jan. 1, is a native of Warren county, an adjoining county to Hancock county where he has spent his life farming. He has made a remarkable record as a farmer. He will have with him in his new venture his wife, four grown sons and three daughters. His oldest son, German, who spent two years at the Georgia State college studying agriculture, will assist in directing the farming operations. This year, on a farm with land not as well located as this farm, Heath and his family produced 500 bushels of corn, 55 bales of cotton, 300 bushels of oats, 137 bushels of wheat, 108 bushels of peas, 75 gallons of syrup, 5 tons of velvet beans and 5 tons of hay. He has 15 hogs, plenty of chickens and other things necessary to make life comfortable on the farm. William Heath and his family, in their remarkable record on the farm and in the church and community life of this section of Georgia, have already demonstrated that they have the ability to make a real contribution towards the development of a more progressive agricultural program in Georgia.

Plans for this farm in the future provides for the growing of large quantities of feed for cattle and other livestock, the opening up and re-seeding of permanent pastures, and the utilization of the timber lands. Tractors and improved modern machinery will serve to lighten and expedite farm work. Pure-bred Hereford beef cattle will be used as one of the main sources of farm income. Electric lights have recently been installed in the home, and all modern improvements will be made to demonstrate how a farm in middle Georgia can offer economic and social satisfactions that will make life for Negroes on the farms of Georgia worthwhile. Plans at the Log Cabin community call for the expansion of this community to include several thousand additional acres of land in adjoining neighborhoods that are not being profitably farmed.

The Georgia State college is following closely the developments in this and other communities in Georgia where experiments in soil building, cattle breeding and community progress in church and school offer worthwhile suggestions as to how life on the farms of Georgia may be made satisfying to Negroes who desire to remain on the farms of the Southland.

Contests Will of Woman Who Went As White

Cult Leader Says Dead Woman Originally Left $25,000 To Him

CHICAGO, April. —(ANP)— Wilbur Glenn Voliva, overseer of the Christian Catholic Church and successor to Alexander Dowie, founder of Zion City, filed suit in the Circuit Court of Cook County, last week, contesting the will of Mrs. Carrie Hills, 95-year-old colored woman who passed for white for many years.

Voliva seeks to have a will of Mrs. Hills which was admitted to probate, April, 1938, set aside. This will left her estate of $25,000 to Mrs. Corrine T. Tennon, her grand niece and a social worker on the south side.

Voliva contends in his bill that on March 7, 1931, Mrs. Hills made a will in which she left her fortune to him and claims that "through undue duress and influence," Mrs. Tennon induced her to make a new testament leaving the estate to her.

KELLY'S WEALTH PLACED AT $3,000

GARY, Ind., Mar. 23—(ANP)—When the estate of the late Walter Kelly, policy baron slain in Chicago on January 8 by gangsters' bullets, was filed for probate by Kelly's sister, Mrs. Vivian Carter of Richmond, Ind., total value of the estate was set at only $3,000. Last week in probate court here, claims amounting to nearly $150 more than the probate value were filed against the estate.

Claims were filed by Editor A. B. Whitlock, the Gary American weekly newspaper, and MaManomy Coffing. Printing and advertising for Kelly's hotel and tavern accounted for the claims made by the editor and the newspaper, while Coffing's claim was for alleged unpaid rent of a building. Knowing of the estate's value, Whitlock said he did not expect to realize more than ten per cent of his claim.

NEGRO GIVEN $200 BY WEALTHY KANSAS WOMAN

LAWRENCE.—Opal Silvers was the only Negro to receive a part of the late Mrs. Elizabeth M. Watkins' half million dollars donation to charity, friends, institutions and relatives. Silvers was given $200.00 requested by Mrs. Watkins' will. Raymond F. Rice, white, was given a Negro painting, "Rastus" along with $5,000.

Mrs. Watkins died last week and left a trust fund totaling $525,000 Negro students who have attended Kansas University here should be acquainted with Mrs. Watkins as many of them passed through her estate in going to and coming from the university campus.

Ex-Slave's Son One Of Richest Men Living On Eastern Shore

GEORGE W. FURNISS

One of the most prosperous farmers on the Eastern Shore. That's the reputation of George W. Furniss, 79, who remembers some of the bloody battles of the Civil War, and whose mother was a slave.

Esteemed by white and colored neighbors, Furniss was recently tendered a surprise birthday testimonial by his family and friends, at which time he described in detail the story of his rise to financial independence.

Born near Princess Anne, Md., Furniss showed signs of developing into a business leader at an early age. He bought a home for his mother when he was 21 years old.

A resident of Somerset County, Md., he is now considered one of the wealthiest men in that vicinity.

CHICK WEBB'S ESTATE GOES TO WIFE, MOTHER

Noted Orchestra Leader's Holdings Amount To Ten Thousand

NEW YORK, July 14—A letter of administration issued in Manhattan surrogate court Tuesday disclosed that the total estate of the late Chick Webb, amounting to over $10,000 had been willed to his wife, Mrs. Sally Webb and his mother who lives in Baltimore.

Although no exact check on the estate of the late band leader could be made, it was unofficially stated that he left a total estate of something like $15,000; $10,000 of this is to go to his widow, Mrs. Sally Webb and the remainder to his mother.

Although Chick referred to Baltimore as his home town, he maintained an apartment at 120 West 138th street where his widow now lives. The Webb apartment has long been one of the show places of Harlem. Listed among the house furnishings are many pieces that are priceless.

They, many of them, are gifts from various admirers of the man who rose from newsboy to the most famous drummer in the world. These pieces of furniture, never shown off by Chick to people who visited his home were his hobby. Whenever he was in Harlem he spent his time enjoying his home.

He was the one band leader who could generally be found in his apartment when enjoying the few layoffs that came his way. Chick's band was generally booked solidly leaving little time for him to enjoy his home.

While Chicks property valuation will not show it in his will he had many costly pieces that would run his total estate value much higher if appraised. Many of these are in the apartment he left to his wife, while others are the property of his mother, sent to her by the great little leader before his death.

Gifts of Kings, Queens

Listed among the treasures left by Chick are many gifts of kings and queens given him in appreciation of his contribution to music. When Chick died he held in his collections an offer for a trip abroad that would have netted him many thousands. He was also slated for a command performance before the King of England.

Mrs. Sally Webb, wife of the late musician is, like Chick himself, a modest person. She answers questions put to her by reporters, but advances none of the valuable information she has about the success of her husband unless asked.

Banker Left $71.511 Estate

BALTIMORE—Harry O. Wilson, banker and head of the Mutual Benefit Society, left an estate of $71,511.28, an inventory filed in Orphans' Court Thursday, showed.

When Mr. Wilson died suddenly of a heart attack at his home 4423 Craddock Avenue, on February 20, his estate was estimated to be in excess of $200,000.

He left no will and his son, Harry O. Wilson, Jr., was appointed administrator of the estate.

$6,734.17 Cash

While only $6,734.17 was in cash, including deposits of $1000, $4500 and $1,234. 17, in three city banks, also listed were Maryland certificates valued at $403.82, a participating certificate. $12.11, and twenty-three shares in the Baltimore Commercial Bank worth $115.

One automobile was valued at $200 and two others at $25 each.

The inventory included no listing of holdings or interests either in the Mutual Benefit Society or the Helping Hand Building Association, both of which Mr. Wilson had established and served as president.

Large Realty Holdings

The larger portion of the estate was in real estate, which included fifty-seven pieces of property, valued at $64,000.

$5,000 in Claims Filed

Claims on the estate amounting to $5,850 have been filed in the court.

They include:

Sears Roebuck Company, $215.15; S. and N. Katz, $33.50; Dr Moses Paulson, $75; Klein Paint Company, $23.58; Mrs. Hester Cutchenber, $93.60; E. Hoffmar and Company, $267.12; and money on deposit with the banker as follows:

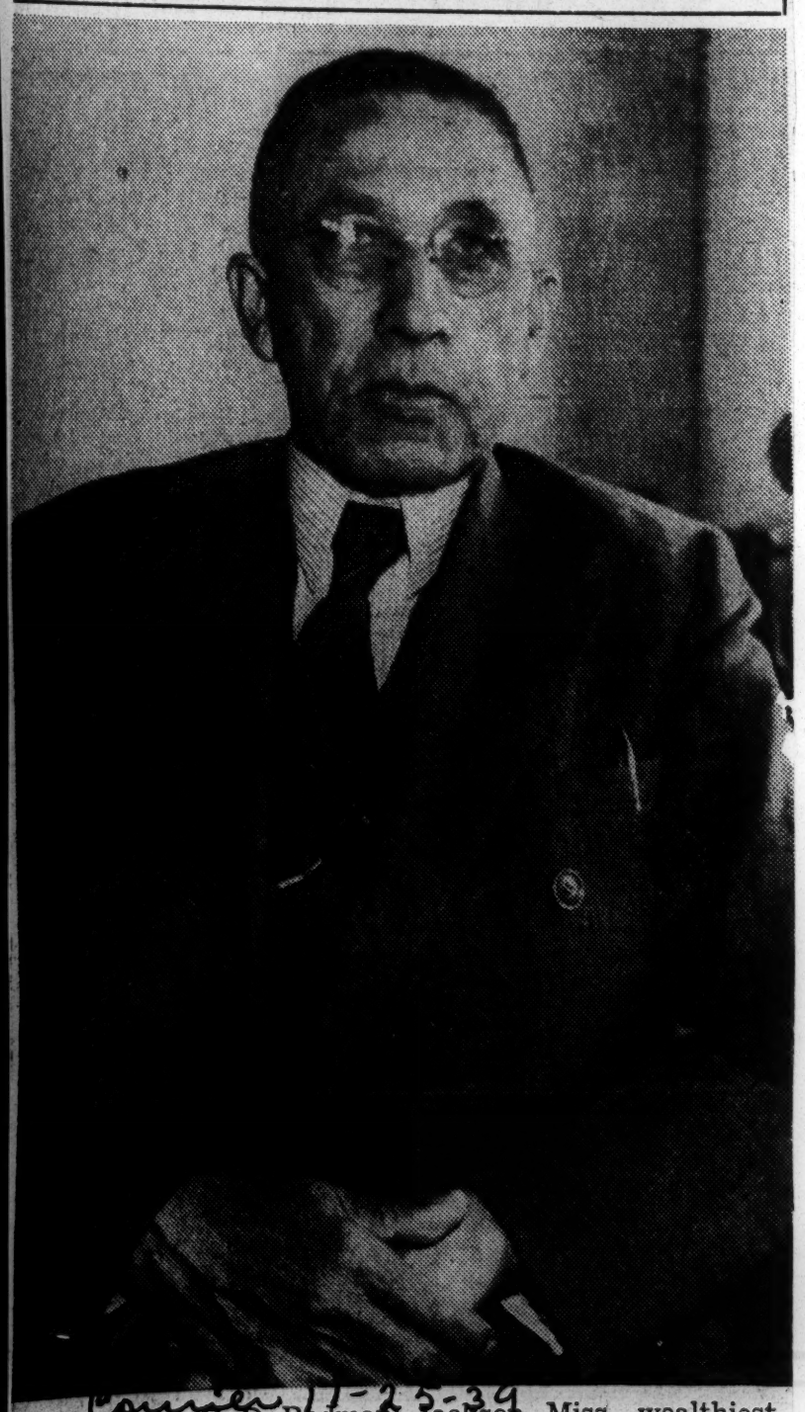
Mrs. Mary B. Johnson, $658.45; Mrs. Sallie C. Logan, $214; Order of Galilean Fishermen, $665.84; Order of Galilean Fishermen, $469; estate of Joseph B. Cole, $15.71; International Longshoremen's Association, $2,143.42; Friendly Beneficial Association, $257.44;

Mt. Ararat Temple, $554.67; Mt. Olive Junior Class, $430.67; William Bradford, $204.76; Naomi Tabernacle of Moses, $45; Musical Academy Society of Baltimore $74.83; Frances Harper Temple of Elks, $145.10; Mrs. Mary R. Owens, $120.30 and John R Zheb, $130.53.

While relatives of Mr. Wilson have sought in vain for a will none to date has been found, and under the Maryland regulations one-third of the estate will go to his widow, Mrs. Mary Waller Wilson, and the remaining two-thirds be divided among his five children.

The latter include: Mrs. Teresa M. Waller of Yonkers, N.Y., Mrs. Ruth E. Koger of this city, Harry O. Wilson, Jr., Owen M. Wilson, and Miss Mary Ellen Wilson.

WEALTHIEST MISSISSIPPIAN



Courier 11-25-39

Attorney E. D. Redman, Jackson, Miss., wealthiest Negro in the State. He is also a physician and practiced medicine in Jackson for 20 years. He is a graduate of the Illinois College of Law and the Illinois Medical College. He also did post-graduate work at Harvard. Attorney Redman was born in Ebenezer, Miss., and moved to Holly Springs when he was 13 years old. Twenty years ago he organized a chain of night schools for Negro adults in Jackson.

John Underhill Cited "Public Benefactor"

WPA Labor To Install Equipment On Community Project

MAYS LANDING, N. J. — Public school children of all races here will have a new playground soon. Thanks for this much needed recreation center go to the late John W. Underhill, a Negro philanthropist who willed more than $10,000 to the township and school board for recreation purpose. Work Projects Administration employees have been assigned to develop the land and install necessary equipment.

A part of the Underhill gift has already been used to improve Memorial Park. The trustees of the fund recently announced that most of the remainder has been allotted for the purchase of additional land and recreational facilities.

Underhill started his career in Mays Landing as a barber. Later he opened a small candy, newspaper and novelty store. Most of his trade was drawn from school children in whom he kept an interest for their development toward useful citizenship.

For years Underhill was the only Negro in town and won the respect of his fellow citizens for his modesty and studious demeanor. He wisely invested his hard-earned money in real estate and amassed a fortune over a period of years.

When the philanthropist died in 1925, town authorities ordered engraved on his tombstone in Union Cemetery the words: "John W. Underhill, a public benefactor."

Cinderella Girl Still Lacking $3,000,000

Something to Story That Flora Hollinsed Will Get Windfall

NAMES OF RICH FAMILIES CITED

Report Is They'll Erect Settlement House

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Nineteen-year-old Miss Flora Hollinsed has not received "a $3,000,000 bequest" from a group of millionaires who desire to educate an "outstanding woman of the colored race."

This story published in a New York paper last week was denied from beginning to end on Monday by Miss Hollinsed and her sister, when a brief interview was finally obtained at the family home, 806 Green Avenue.

Flora herself made no statement, but a girl who declined to give her first name but admitted she was a member of the family and inadvertently admitted she was Flora's sister, attacked the published story, the methods used in getting the story, and the reporters who worked on it.

Flora's sister mentioned "my father" while discussing James A. Hollinsed, Flora's father, thus revealing she is Flora's sister. She answered the door of the three-story brownstone house only after the reporter persisted in ringing the bell even after someone opened the third-story window and declared "no member of the Hollinsed family is at home." That someone was at home was indicated by two pretty umbrellas parked outside the door and wet, from an earlier shower.

However, Flora's sister did not completely deny the story that her sister would become, in a sense, a "Cinderella girl."

She said at first: "None of the story is true." But later she admitted some of it might be.

"There is something developing along this line which could have been the basis of this story," she said.

At another point in referring to the story published last week Miss Hollinsed said: "They would have been safe had they published what they did and used no names. The names are the thing."

It was learned that reporters on the original story were puzzled this week as to whether they had been made victims of a hoax or whether the "Cinderella Girl" story was based on facts.

Substance of the published story is that Miss Hollinshed is in line for a social work position in Brooklyn and that a settlement house project is backed by Mrs. Vincent Astor, Robert Morgan King, Mrs. Harry P. Whitney, Harry Gould, Mrs. Courtland Farrell and several others.

Further, according to the published story, she is to receive a $4,800 a year traveling fellowship that will take her round the world and eventually to two more years of study at the New York School of Social Work. The income is for life, the story stated, and is contingent upon Miss Hollinsed's giving up her fiance.

Such an arrangement for prospective holders of big positions is not unusual. Organizations such as the National Urban League award scholarships for social work study and arrange for successful graduates to get positions. Many other organizations do likewise.

Misleading phase of the story is the assertion that Miss Hollinsed personally is to receive $3,000,000. This is wholly denied.

She ridiculed a statement in the published story that her father, chauffeur for Robert Morgan King, is paid $125 a week on his job.

"Imagine a chauffeur getting that kind of money these days," she exclaimed.

Schwab Leaves Valet $6,000 In His Will

NEW YORK, Oct. 13—James Ray, for years valet-secretary to the late Charles M. Schwab who died a few weeks ago, was left $6,000 in the will of his late employer it was stated this week.

Although the will filed in probate court showed Mr. Ray receiving only $1,000 it is reliably stated that Mr. Schwab ordered his business secretary to turn over negotiable collateral amounting to an additional $5,000 to his trusted employe.

From the statement reluctantly admitted by "a friend," the $5,000 was from a fund Mr. Schwab kept on hand to be checked out under the signature of his secretary in case of the multi-millionaire's absence.

10-14-39

Speculation Rife

There was considerable surprise in the probated will of Mr. Schwab that showed Ray getting $1,000 since the late steel magnate had been known to turn over much more to Ray during his life time. There had been rumors that Mr. Ray had been left valuable property, all of which is denied by the "friend," a lawyer, who has asked that his name be withheld.

"You can safely say that the total cash known to have been left Mr. Ray was $6,000," he said.

Attracts Attention

Mr. Ray is well known in business and social circles of Harlem. He is likewise prominently known along Broadway where he has handled much of Mr. Schwab's personal business for years.

Several years ago Mr. Ray married Mrs. Nora Holt, widow of the late George Holt, well known Chicago business man and sportsman. The divorce which followed later attracted much attention through the press.

Plaquimine, La. South
November 17, 1939

Former Negro Resident of Plaquemine Visits Here, Has Half-million Bradstreet Rating

Residents of Rosedale remember John Garret as one of the negro boys who grew up around the neighborhood and later became yard man for Paul G. Borron, Sr., of this city. But after 1923 possibly most of the residents of the section lost tract of him, vaguely remembering only that he had gone to New Orleans as chauffeur for a lady of means.

John Garret did go to New Orleans as a chauffeur. His employer was so well impressed with his faithful service that at her death she left him an annuity with the stipulation that he use it for an education. He went to England and there entered a college where he studied engineering and received his diploma.

Having learned his vocation he took employment on the Block steamship lines as an assistant engineer and later became chief engineer. Still later he settled in New York where he entered the construction business.

Setting up an independent contracting firm, he prospered well as a business man. One of his latest projects was the erecting of a 35-story office building.

John visited Plaquemine little more than a week ago, on a trip which took him also to Texas. He was driving a Pontiac eight and could refer to his rating in Bradstreet's which shows he is worth more than a half-million. His brother Willie Garret is associated with him in business and his mother lives with him in New York.

John has between 50 and 60 relatives in Iberville parish, and in his prosperity he has not forgotten those who were not as fortunate as he. He is now working on a community farm plan, but has not yet settled on the location and complete plans. It is his desire if possible to purchase a tract of land near Plaquemine and establish a farm for his kinsfolk here, or he may set up the farm somewhere near New York.

John Garret has lost none of the modesty of the Southern negro in spite of his experiences north and abroad. He contacted several Plaquemine citizens while here, who report that he is the same John Garret of 20 years ago. "If you're ever in New York," he said to one citizen here, "look me up and I'll show you Harlem as nobody else can."

Greensboro, N. C., News
March 2, 1939

Negro Woman In Caswell Is Making Good Use of Wealth

DANVILLE, Va., March 1.—Azalea Mitchell, negro woman who first saw light on the r··· hills of Caswell county has returned to her native haunts to spend the rest of her days after having received unexpectedly $75,000 last summer.

Azalea has built a $7,000 red brick house on an eminence overlooking the 52-acre farm she bought, has collected some of her less fortunate 13 brothers and sisters and the family group are preparing land for a tobacco crop.

Wearing an expensive mink coat and other stylish clothes and with one foot on the running board of her glossy sedan (a new smaller model car stood in the other end of the yard), Azalea confessed she was "on relief" in New York the day she got the cablegram saying that she was to receive the big money. "I had a sort of weak feeling about the shoulders and I thought they were kidding me—but it all turned out to be true."

Spent Money Carefully.

Azalea did not run riot with the new riches. She sought out a trusted friend and when she received her check the following month, she knew just what investments she was going to make. But, she first went to see the collector of internal revenue and by the time he had finished the windfall had shrunk to $53,000. She is expecting a $2,000 tax refund within the next few weeks.

Part of the money was invested in annuities with a large insurance company and some invested in government bonds. She receives a certain amount of money each month on her investment.

Other members of the family hovering around the estate were noticeable for their clothes. There were satins for the women and the men folk wore neat suits of clothes. The children also well dressed were riding in expensive scooters about the yard.

Azalea Mitchell left Caswell 15 years ago and went to New York. Her husband died leaving her with one daughter. She went into domestic service but was without employment at the time her fortune turned. Her daughter is attending a New York college on part of the fortune intent on becoming a teacher.

People of the neighborhood say that the Mitchell family is retiring and that Azalea who has occupied her new home since January is doing some private welfare work among the poorer colored tenant farmers. She has had one "big party" to recement the old neighborhood ties. There was dancing and refreshments.

The new home is neatly but not extravagantly furnished and the lawn has been sown in grass and maples have just been planted around the premises. New plows and other farm machinery could be seen in the rear of the house as well as a couple of stout mules.

Man Who Was Left $50,000 Fortune Dies

CLEVELAND, May 4 (AN[illegible]) — Walter B. Wright, 84, former secretary to the president of the Nickel Plate railroad, retired some years ago, died in his home here last week. The funeral was Monday, from the home and the burial was in Columbus. His former residence before coming to Cleveland more than 50 years ago.

Some years ago, D. W. Caldwell, president of the Lake Shore railroad, now part of the New York Central system, left a fortune of almost $50,000 to Wright who had been Caldwell's secretary. Walter B. Wright was a man of great dignity, and leaves a daughter, Mrs. Beatrice Fox and two sons, Woodward and Lloyd Wright. His second wife, deceased, was a sister of Lieut. Colonel Lewis E. Johnson of the Eighth Illinois regiment.

Father And Son Battle In Court Over Oil Wealth

Isaac Masons of Oklahoma in Bitter Fight—Father Says Youth Squandered $25,000 in 18 Months —Youth Wins First Court Tilt.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 23—Justice Jennings Bailey in the United States District Court last Thursday temporarily enjoined Isaac S. Mason, Sr., and his wife, Mrs. Beatrice Mason, from disposing of the 160-acre tract of land in Oklahoma known as the Stella Manuel Farm, which Isaac S. Mason, Jr. claims as a part of the estate of his mother, Mrs. Stella Manuel Mason, a Creek Indian.

WHITE AND COLORED TRUSTEES ARE NAMED

He also appointed George Bolen, white, attorney for young Mason, and Charles H. Houston, attorney for the elder Mason and his wife, as trustees, and directed the elder Mason to turn over to them all oil royalties he receives on account of oil rights in the farm.

The case was referred to the court auditor to state an account between the father and son relating to their respective shares in the estate of Mrs. Stella Mason.

The senior Mason filed an answer last Thursday in which the father claims that under Oklahoma law he was entitled to a half interest in the estate of his deceased wife, although an effort was made to disinherit him by will.

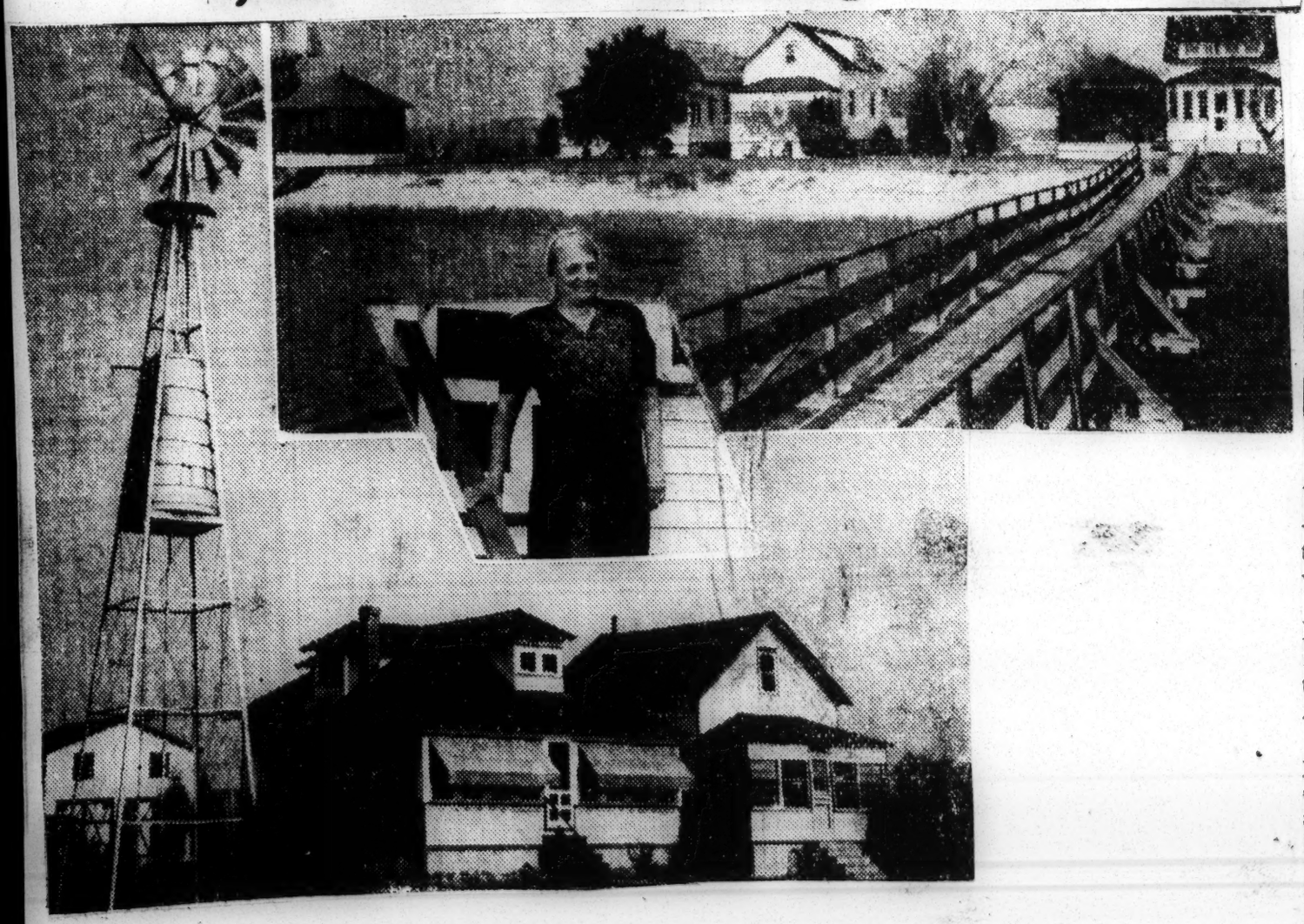
SAYS SON SQUANDERED $25,000 IN 18 MONTHS

The father and stepmother deny that they kept from young Mason the facts of his parentage or property interests. These facts, they say, were table talk. The father adds that he kept his son fully advised during his minority of the status of his estate.

His son was headstrong and a problem child in school, Mr. Mason asserts, and when he became of age he became impatient of all restraint and dissipated an estate worth $25,000 within less than 18 months.

She Had An Idea, The Courage So--Now She Has A First-Class

5,000 Feet Of Bathing Water Front...--And Bucks! Beach Front



She Dared To Do Despite Threats Of Depression

By E. WASHINGTON RHODES

IT IS A GREAT experience to stand on a pier owned by a colored woman and watch the sun making beautiful pictures upon the out-going tidal waters while one catches fish with a hook and reel.

It is a pleasing sight to observe the waters of Great Egg Harbor Bay washing whiter the white sands of a thousand-foot beach at Morris Beach, N. J. But as one's feet sink into the sand made warm by the sun, it feels different from that at Atlantic City or Asbury Park.

The difference is more mental than physical. A woman you know, Mrs. Jennie Morris, a Philadelphia business woman, owns the beach. The feeling of possession sweeps over one and lifts one up.

58 MILES FROM PHILADELPHIA

By automobile it is an hour and a half from Philadelphia. The time depends upon the condition of the motor car and the ability of the driver. But what difference does it make how long it takes? It is the glorious sights which are seen upon your arrival that make one glad to be alive. And the knowledge that it is owned by a colored woman is inspiring.

There are 5,000 feet of water front which forms a semi-circle around the property of 175 acres. It is ripe for development. There are 126 lots ready for those with the desire and the funds to purchase and build cottages for themselves.

Private Highway

Three excellent and completely furnished homes with garages stand near the beach. At the water's edge are two small pavilions in which food may be served under the cheerful influence of the lapping water. Or one may prefer to just sit and dream in the sun with pleasant thoughts.

There are trees and land for farming. As one leaves the public highway at Jeffer's Landing, there is a private highway over which one must drive for a mile before reaching the buildings which front on the beach.

A windmill pumps the water for the houses. And for those who desire the romance of pumping water by hand there is a pump. A small electric plant generates electricity for the main house.

Plans Colored Colony

Mrs. Morris has plans for the development of a colony of colored people who want a decent and attractive seashore resort free from racial restrictions. Already lots have been sold. This woman, whose life is a success story, refused an offer of $6,000 more than she paid for the property because she did not want to give up what she had found after years of painstaking effort. For years she had been looking for a beach front property to develop for her people. And so far as she is concerned, colored people will always own it.

Woman Realtor Assists

There is another woman in this case—Florence Madison Hill, real estate broker, who has charge of the promotion and selling of the lots for Mrs. Morris. One woman buys and another one assists in a big way.

It required vision and courage to purchase a place of this kind. It is within striking distance of Philadelphia—only 58 miles. It offers an excellent opportunity to colored citizens to enjoy a beach with freedom and equality.

I risk the assertion that in a few short years this will be one of the show places along the Atlantic coast. Because I was inspired by the project, I have tried to write something about it. And for fear I would not do it justice, I had pictures taken to illustrate this article.

Furnishes Inspiration

While others may complain about discrimination, Mrs. Jennie Morris went out and bought a beach. Even if it were only half as good as it actually is, I would still consider it an achievement which will inspire thousands now living and assist those who are to follow to achieve more abundantly. After you have seen it, as you surely must, you too will join in the chorus of acclaim.

Within 58 miles of Philadelphia a woman buys a beach. That is something to talk about during the long winter evenings.

SWEEPS WINNER MUST SETTLE 'RELIEF' DEBTS

PHILADELPHIA, April 6—(ANP)—Several months ago, when the ticket salesman visited her home, Mrs. Pearl Mason, on relief for the past six years, took $2.50 from her modest relief check and bought a ticket in the Grand National Sweepstakes, drawing "Workman," the horse which won the big race and deposited $141,000 in the lap of jubilant Mrs. Mason.

Mrs. Mason lives with her husband, Benjamin, former garage attendant, who has been out of work for seven years, and their two children. Because her family has been on relief, Mrs. Mason faces certain difficulties before being able to fully enjoy her winnings and she has engaged Atty. Raymond P. Alexander to attend to legal details.

Relief Debt $4000

The first deduction from her $141,000 take down will be the federal tax, said to amount to $57,588. She also faces the possibility of having to repay to local Relief officials the $4,000 her family has received as aid during the past six years. In addition, she may have to pay the cost of treatment received last year at Philadelphia General hospital, and, of course, counsel fees. However, after all deductions have been made, the happy woman can look forward to enjoying a neat bankroll, probably in excess of $75,000

So great was the jam of the curious around the Mason home after news was announced of their good fortune that a special detail of 30 police was detailed to maintain order and keep the crowd moving. A humorous touch was given the incident when her husband, Mason, out of work for several years—and asked what he would do now that the family was rich, reportedly replied, "I'll just take it easy for a while."

Another colored Quaker City resident pulling down "big money" was Samuel Alexander, Jr., riding academy proprietor and cousin of Mrs. Mason's lawyer, Raymond Pace Alexander. Samuel Alexander won $50,000 on "Kilstar," who ran third. A third winner, Henderson Reid, car washer, had to be satisfied with $2,650 on "St. George II," but solaced himself with the thought: "That's better than nothing."

Ben and Pearl

The world's best Christmas story found its way to the front pages of the nation's newspapers and broadcasting stations last week from a slum area in the rich city of Philadelphia. It was one of those stories which is like a ray of sunlight piercing a dark, dank, cave. It was the sort of story which causes one to exclaim: all is not mean and hateful and selfish in this world of woe.

Pearl and Benjamin Mason, two middle aged Negroes, who have had to scuffle and slave all of their lives to make ends meet for themselves and their children won $150,000 in the Irish Hospital sweepstakes last Spring. They and their children had been on relief for about 190 weeks or nearly four years when the goddess of fortune smiled on them. They had suffered the pangs of hunger, want and frustration in the midst of plenty.

When Pearl and Ben got their windfall, however, they did not make whoopie and gouge themselves with goodies, things persons too often do when they receive huge sums of money unexpectedly. Instead of throwing their fortune away they paid back the relief people who had kept them for nearly four years and then bought the entire block of slums in which they had lived. The Masons are now having the slums remodeled into modern, healthful low-rent houses for the 100 Negro families which live in the section. Thus, these two hitherto poverty stricken people are providing comfort, health and happiness for some 500 people in a way that is bound to bear dividends for the entire city of Philadelphia.

Alfred S. Jones Leaves Estate Of $17,000

Six Employees Beneficiaries, Each Gets Bequest Of $100

An estate valued at over $17,000 was left by Alfred S. Jones, 78, South Philadelphia hotel and lodgeroom owner 514 south 46th street, who died two weeks ago.

He left $100 to six employers and other small bequests to friends.

His widow will receive $125 a month from a trust fund, while Ella R. Jones will receive $35 a month. The remainder of the estate was divided equally among his nieces and nephews

FORMER RELIEF COUPLE, NOW WEALTHY, TO BUILD HOUSING PROJECT FOR 100 FAMILIES

'We Know What Poverty Is' Reason Given By Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Mason of Cleveland for Charitable Act

PHILADELPHIA.— (ANP)—One of the most praiseworthy philanthropies in the history of the Negro race came to light here this week when a Negro couple—formerly poor themselves and on relief—who had won $150,000 in the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes last March announced that they would use the money for construction of a low-rent housing project in South Philadelphia for 100 poor colored families.

The public-spirited and race-loving couple—Benjamin and Pearl Mason—said they had decided to spend the bulk of their winnings on the housing project, "because we know what poverty is." At the time they won the money Mason was unemployed and he lived with his wife and two children on a weekly relief check of $11.40.

Soon as their "sweeps" money was in hand, they paid the relief board for the aid they had received amounting to $2,133.90, then invested $3.000 more in a modest home in which they now live. They spent $1500 in furnishing the home and to make their happiness complete, bought a family car for $800.

More than one-third of the sum they received went to the Government for income tax. This amounted to $57,000. All the rest is being invested in the housing project, located in the block bounded by Lombard, Waverly, Opal and Twentieth streets. Mr. and Mrs. Mason retained Atty. Raymond Pace Alexander to attend the maze of legal details incidental to the construction and under his direction $40,000 was spent to buy the block of dilapidated tenements.

Another $40,000 will be spent for construction which starts on December 20, according to the Masons, and the project will be named the Frances Plaza Apartments, for it was the Masons' daughter, Frances who picked the winning ticket. Frank V. Nichols, prominent local architect will have charge of the project. Majority of all work on the buildings will be done by Negroes, with H. H. Jefferson in charge of construction and George P. Young in charge of painting and plumbing.

The apartments will be modern in every particular, with refrigeration, air conditioning, a playground, lawns and fountain; playrooms in the basement a gymnasium and bowling alley, reception hall for social affairs and a chapel for religious worship, because, as the Masons say, "God was good to them."

MAID GETS CHECK FOR $100,000

12-8-39

NEWARK, N. J. — Mrs. Laura Grimes, maid of Milton, Pa., near Pittsburg, who three weeks ago received a check for $100,000 from her white employer, arrived here on Saturday on the first leg of a journey to South America.

According to first report, Mrs. Grimes was said to have inherited a million dollars. While here, she was the guest of Miss Eva Wells and Charles Wells of N. Sixth street, In Rutherford, Pa., she stopped with Mrs. Ruth Marshall, a close friend.

Mrs. Grimes denied all interviews. She is reported to be stopping at an exclusive New York shop to buy some clothes before leaving for South America.

Bob Church Behind In Taxes $89,000

MEMPHIS—(ANP)— With delinquent city, county and state taxes amounting to $89,000 charged against them for the period 1919-1937, 12 valuable pieces of property owned by Robert R. Church, nationally known GOP leader, and his sister, Miss Annette Church, will be auctioned publicly about March 15, it was announced last week by K. C. Larkey, delinquent tax attorney.

Order to recover the taxes which include interest, penalties and attorney's fees, was issued by Chancellor Bejach. Of the total, the city is owed about $57,000, the county $25,600, the state $6.300.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
February 19, 1939

Bob Church's Property Up For Tax Sale Now

Forty years ago Bob Church Sr., a smart young negro who had been a cabin boy on a Mississippi River steamboat and saved his tips, began investing in Memphis real estate and soon grew rich. When he died years later he owned many of the palatial houses in the city's tenderloin district on Gayoso Avenue and was popularly regarded as a millionaire. He left his estate to his son, Bob Church Jr., who became Memphis' negro Republican leader and a potent political power during the Harding-Coolidge-Hoover era, and his daughter, Annette Church.

Last week Kenneth Larkey, delinquent tax attorney, announced that 12 pieces of property owned by the Churches will be publicly auctioned on March 15 to satisfy delinquent city, county and state taxes amounting to $89,000. The unpaid taxes are for the period from 1919 to 1937, and of the total amount the city claims $57,000, the county $25,600 and the state $6300.

Also figuring in the news past week was the will of Bishop J. C. Martin, 73, negro Methodist bishop who financed the building of numerous negro churches throughout the MidSouth. Filed in Probate Court, the bill showed Bishop Martin had left a personal estate of $200,000; Judge R. I. Moore, appointed administrator at the request of the bishop's widow, said he thought real estate owned by the bishop would increase the value of the estate considerably.

TO AUCTION BOB CHURCH PROPERTY IN MEMPHIS

MEMPHIS, Feb. 23—(ANP) — With delinquent city, county and state taxes amounting to $89,000 charges against them for the period 1919-1937, 12 valuable pieces of property owned by Robert R. Church, nationally known G. O. P. leader and his sister, Miss Annette Church, will be auctioned publicly about March 15, it was announced this week by K. C. Larkey, delinquent tax attorney.

Of the total, the city is owed about $57,000, the county $25,600, the state, $6,300.

Bishop Martin Leaves $200,000

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 23—An estate valued at $200,000 was left by Bishop J. C. Martin of the C. M. E. Church, who died Feb. 6 it was revealed Monday in probate court Judge R. I. Moore, who was appointed administrator of the estate at the request of Bishop Martin's widow, said he thought real esate owned by the deceased prelate would increase the value of the estate considerably.

Bishop Martin who was known as "Church Builder" was at the time of his death bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church in Florida and southern Louisiana.

ONE FOURTH OF TEXAS NEGRO FARMERS OWN THEIR OWN FARMS

PRAIRIE VIEW, Tex., Aug. 31—(ANP)—Twenty-five per cent of the 76,000 Texas Negro farm families own their farm, stated Jack Shelton, vice extension director and state agent from College station in addressing the counties who are here attending the 32nd annual farmers congress and short course.

Beginning Sunday and extending through Wednesday, both adults and 4-H club members participated in judging contests, instrumental courses and demonstrations, objectively directed toward vitalizing the congress motto: "More Food on Texas Farms."

In his address, Mr. Shelton described several Negro farms which he has recently visited and told his audience that the test of a good farmer is the amount of food and feed supplies which he has grown and stored for year round use on the farm and in his home.

E. A. Miller, assistant director Southern division, Agricultural Adjustment administraiton, Washington, D. C., explained the new feature of the 1940 AAA program which provides payment for the family garden and in stressing the AAA benefit payments told the group that "you cannot have diversified farming until you have diversified thinking."

President W. R. Banks welcomed the visitors and stated that "the need for adequate income is the greatest problem facing the Negro today." He commended the Negro home demonstration agents for their excellent service in teaching economical short-cuts in household management and praised the Negro mother for her ability to "stretch her meager income in order to feed and clothe her children."

This year's exhibit included, from the men, hams, shoulders, pecans and syrup. Reports showed 8 syrup mills owned and operated in the state by Negro farmers and last year's production was 16,780 gallons of sorgo syrup and 1,767 gallons of cane syrup.

In the pecan industry Negro farm agents instructed farmers to approve 3,900 pecan trees and in meat production 1,110,000 pounds of meat were cured and smoked. This was in contrast to the record seven years ago when the meat projects were started and the farmers only cured 26,000 pounds.

William S. Hart, 18-year-old 4-H club boy from Bay City, was awarded a gold medal and $25 in cash for all round 4-H work. From his cotton, corn, pigs and jersey cows, Hart earned last year a net profit of $443.08 and has saved enough to enter the freshman class at Prairie View college next month.

Among the demonstrations carried on for men and boys were: sub-irrigated gardens, better production and uses of field crops, making and repairing farm implements, sanitation and feeds for live stock and poultry and concrete work. These demonstrations were under the direction of John H. Williams and H. S. Estelle, district agents.

One of the unusual demonstrations for women was the use of milo maize for break making. The maize was ground with an inexpensive hand mill and following a tested recipe delicious muffins were made and served. Other demonstrations for women included pickle making, canning and bottoming chairs, food preparation and needle work. These demonstrations were under the direction of Mrs. I. W. Rowan and Mrs. J. O. A. Conner, district home agents.

C. H. Waller, state extension leader, who is in charge of the congress, reports taht over $2,500 has been jointly raised by Texas Negro farmers Council of Agriculture and the Texas Negro Home Demonstration council for the purpose of erecting a model summer camp for Negro 4-H boys and girls which will be located near the Prairie View campus.

CLARK FOREMAN, OFFICIAL IN PWA, IS WORKING ON TENNESSEE VOTE CASE

Call 12-29-39

White Tennessee Citizen Brings Suit Because Election Officials Refused To Give Him Ballot

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (ANP)—Following the recent acquittal by a Texas court of Mayor Maury Maverick on the charge of paying voter's poll taxes to enable them to vote, interest this week centers about the efforts of Clark Foreman, head of the power development section of PWA, to remove the tax restriction in southern states.

Foreman, who was formerly head of the division of Negro affairs, department of the interior, is working on a Tennessee voting case which comes up next month before the sixth circuit court of appeals in Cincinnati. Indications are that this case, in the event of adverse decisions, may be taken to the U. S. supreme court.

The Tennessee case—involving Henry Purdle, white, of Grundy county—arose during the recent election of Congressman Kefauver, to take the seat of the late Sam McReynolds. At the election Grundy insisted on his right to vote without paying the poll tax, claimed no property or tax restriction could impair his right of suffrage.

When election officials denied him the privilege, he brought suit against the county Democratic organization, and it is this case that comes up in January in Cincinnati.

President Roosevelt has reportedly taken an active interest in the poll tax question, believing that it operated to disfranchise a large segment of the electorate. The tax—ranging from $2 to $3 in various countries—affects mainly Negroes and poor whites, and thousands of eligible voters shun the polls on election days because they either oppose the restriction or are unable to pay the tax.

It is believed here in Washington that administration leaders, headed by the President, will make a test of the poll-tax question before spring.

TEXAS

Mavericks' Maury

Mavericks are plentiful in Texas' Bexar County. They may—and do—fight among themselves. They may—and do—lambaste one another's politics. But when a Maverick gets in trouble, the Mavericks gather.

Two weeks ago, the Mavericks gathered in a San Antonio court. Albert Maverick's boy Maury was in trouble. Dr. George Maverick came all the way from New York, smoked his pipe with an air of "I'm here if needed." Pretty Maverick girls flashed hot glances at anti-Mavericks.

No one, least of all himself, need have been surprised that Maury was in trouble. Politics is a tough business, and Bexar County is no Sunday school. When Maury Maverick got licked for re-election to Congress, he started to come back by getting himself elected Mayor of San Antonio. In his campaign he promised a general clean-up of the city. When he was elected, he started to make good his promise. Result: obvious to any freshman in political chemistry.

One political chemist, but no freshman was District Attorney John R. Shook

Wide World

MAURY MAVERICK
From his clan, cheers and tears.

boyhood friend of Maury, now one of the leaders of the opposition which kept Maury out of Congress in 1938, tried to keep him out of the Mayor's office. In his political laboratory, Mr. Shook got to work. He uncovered one Maxwell Burkett, San Antonio lawyer who had been an attorney for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Mr. Burkett, it was alleged in court later, had been prevented, as part of Maury's clean-up, from signing bonds for vice case defendants. Mr. Shook having shaken up some other interesting combinations, emerged from his laboratory with several indictments, on charges of paying and conspiring to pay the poll taxes of others (a prison offense in Texas). Most interesting name on the list was Mayor Maverick's.

The State tried to show that Maverick and his co-defendants conspired to spend Maverick money in 50¢ pieces to pay the $1.50 poll tax for an I. L. G. W. U. member so he could help elect him. (By Texas law, no one can vote without paying a poll tax.) Defense maintained that the money was spent legally for campaign purposes.

While Patriarch Albert Maverick alternately glared and dozed, while the charges against Maury's co-defendants were dismissed, leaving Maury to stand alone, his trial raged in a super-heated courtroom. A

defense witness accused Burkett of once saying he wanted to get rid of Maury. A feminine witness for the prosecution admitted having called Maury "a crumb." Maury's 14-year-old daughter drew a picture of a devil with a forked tail, labeled it "Gittinger" ("Buck" Gittinger, Shook's assistant). Judge Bryce Ferguson, "Ma" Ferguson's nephew, slumped down in his chair almost out of sight, looked up occasionally to quote from memory long passages of law. Defense Counsel Carl Wright Johnson, one of Texas' most eloquent bull-roarers, snorted that conspiracy testimony was stronger against Shook and Burkett, bellowed: "I don't think there is a man on the jury who would send a burr-headed nigger through a cracked gate or fine him a five-cent piece on the evidence they have in this case."

He was right. Last week the jury acquitted Albert Maverick's boy Maury. Mavericks cheered, wept, stamped, went home. Maury Maverick went back to the Mayor's office. The Maverick clan, and many another Texan, thought he would probably weather worse political trials.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
June 18, 1939

Decline in Negro Ownership of Land Subject of Study

Petersburg, June 17.—(AP)—Causes for declining Negro ownership of land in Virginia will be discussed by economic experts at a regional interracial conference here Tuesday.

Dr. W. E. Garnett, rural economist of Virginia Tech, and L. M. Walker, assistant administrator, Department of Agriculture, will lead the discussion. The State Planning Board has reported that 65 counties in the State have shown a decline in Negro ownership during the last 25 years while only three—Greene, Madison and Rappahannock—have shown an increase.

The conference here is one of three arranged for discussion of interracial problems. A conference was held Wednesday at Lawrenceville and another will be held at Virginia Tech, July 31.

Other subjects to be discussed at the conference here include "Building a Negro Middle Class Through Improvement of Vocational and Occupational Opportunities," by J. H. Binford, superintendent of the Richmond city schools; "Raising the Standard of Living Among Negroes," by Mrs. Rose Butler Brown, of the Virginia State College faculty; "Why We Behave as We Do Toward Other Racial Groups," by Dr. Fred M. Alexander, of the State Department of Education.

Portsmouth, Va. Star
June 18, 1939

Declining Negro Land Ownership Is Topic

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Divide Estate of Mrs. Maggie Walker After Long Battle

(Staff Correspondence)

RICHMOND, Va. — An order dividing the estate of the late Mrs. Maggie L. Walker was entered in Law and Equity Court, April 25, by Judge Willis D. Miller after long litigation.

Mrs. Walker's will, which was penciled on paper, was probated in Chancery Court, February 7, 1935, at which time the estate was appraised at $40,259 of which $30,000 was real property. Mrs. Walker gave the will to a foster daughter the day before she died.

The property will be distributed among three grandchildren: Armstead Walker, Mamie Walker, and Elizabeth Mitchell Walker; and a foster daughter, Polly Payne. Another grandchild, Maggie Laura Walker, will receive the property at 104 East Clay Street.

Judge Miller in construing the will decreed that four pieces of property on North Fourth Street, 120 shares of stock in the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company, 20 shares of stock in the Southern Aid Society, a third interest in the University Realty Company, Inc., and certain jewelry will go to the foster daughter and three grandchildren.

The court ordered the sale of certain real estate not bequeathed, to be sold to satisfy debts against the estate. J. Thomas Hewin, Jr., and S. W. Robinson, Jr., were appointed special commissioners to sell the land.

Mrs. Walker founded the Independent Order of St. Luke, a fraternal insurance company, which is the oldest and second largest of its kind in the United States. She was also chairman of the board of the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company, formerly the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, which was founded in 1902.

Insurance books owned by Mrs. Walker will go to the Right Worthy Grand Council, Order of St. Luke and other books will be given to Virginia Union University.

Va. Court Orders Division Of Maggie L. Walker Estate

Courier 5-13-39 Pittsburgh Pa.

Famed Fraternal Leader, Who Wrote Her Will In Pencil, on Yellow Paper, Left $40,000 in Real Estate and Cash.

RICHMOND, Va., May 11. (ANP)—After long litigation, an order was entered this week in Judge Willis D. Miller's law and equity court, determining the division of the estate of the late Mrs. Maggie L. Walker, widely known fraternal leader and business woman of this city, who died in 1934.

Mrs. Walker's will, written with pencil on yellow paper, was probated in chancery court February 7, 1935, at which time the estate was appraised at $40,259. Of this, $30,000 was in real estate, the balance personal property. Reported heirs include four grandchildren, a son and two daughters of the late Melvin Walker, and a foster daughter.

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The court also ordered the sale of certain real estate, not bequeathed, to satisfy claims against the estate. S. W. Robinson, Jr., and J. Thomas Hewin, Jr., were appointed special commissioners to sell the land.

Mrs. Walker founded the Independent Order of St. Luke, fraternal insurance company, and reputedly the oldest and second largest of its kind in America. She was also chairman of the board, Consolidated Bank and Trust company, formerly the St. Luke Penny Savings bank, which was founded in 1902.

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COURT ORDERS DIVISION OF WALKER ESTATE

Action Ends Long Court Battle

5-11-39

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Bulk Goes to Grandchildren

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